

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending. Claims 1, 12 and 23 are independent.

Applicant has canceled claims 6, 7, 11, 17, 18, 22, 28, 32 and 34.

In a previous office action dated April 19, 2006, the examiner used Rowe and Nikolovska to reject claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12-16, 19, 20, 23-27 and 29-31 as having been obvious.

Claims 1, 12 and 23, as amended, recite "a database interconnected to an offline archive storing a plurality of objects associated with past programming events, the plurality of objects comprising EPG objects and non-EPG objects, the EPG objects selected from the group consisting of 3-D images, alphanumeric text and video data, the non-EPG objects comprising localized content and electronic commerce (e-commerce) objects," or similar language. Rowe and Nikolovska fail to teach or suggest at least this quoted claim feature.

No where did the examiner argue that the above feature is disclosed in Nikolovska . Instead, the examiner argued that the above feature is shown in Rowe at col. 9, lines 29-46, reproduced below for the convenience of the examiner:

In response to a command input by one of the navigation keys 70a-d, the remote control unit 40 transmits an instruction to the set-top converter 32 via an infrared communications link. In turn, the set-top converter 32 decodes the instruction and responds by controlling the selected feature of the schedule display 50. Specifically, the set-top converter 32, which converts the programs' and programming information delivered by the cable distribution network 28 for presentation via the display 38, can control each of the displays 52, 54, and 56 and the position of the focus frame 60 on the viewing panel 58. In addition, the set-top converter 32 can update the programming information presented by the schedule display 50 by outputting a request to the headend processor 14 via the return path supplied by the cable distribution network 28. This allows the retrieval of desired programming information from the memory storage device 12 containing the database which maintains program guide data. [Rowe, col. 9, lines 29-46]

Applicant can find nothing in the above lines of Rowe, or anywhere in Rowe, that teaches or suggests a database interconnected to an offline archive storing a plurality of objects associated with past programming events, the plurality of objects comprising EPG objects and non-EPG objects, the EPG objects selected from the group consisting of 3-D images, alphanumeric text and video data, the non-EPG objects comprising localized content and electronic commerce (e-commerce) objects.

Rowe teaches that programming information is typically presented as a function of the date and time for the scheduled programs. Rowe seeks to enhance this programming information

by presenting it in an efficient and user-friendly manner based upon the classes of scheduled programs, which allows a user to view programming information by genre groupings rather than by a time-based schedule.

Rowe's database is only a database that maintains program guide data:

The programming information is stored within one or more databases and is retrievable to support the display of selected programming information by the display system. Specifically, the category tiles, subcategory tiles, and program tiles are stored within a database structure on a memory storage device and can be retrieved as required to support the display of programming information represented by these tiles. Thus, at least one of the subcategory tiles representing a subcategory associated with a selected category is retrieved from the database in response to a selected category tile appearing within the viewing panel. In response to a selected subcategory tile appearing within the viewing panel, at least one program tile representing a program associated with the selected subcategory is retrieved from the database if a program is available that is associated with the selected subcategory. [Rowe, col. 3, lines 12-21]

The examiner also refers applicant to Rowe's "preview section 92" at col. 14, lines 46-55, reproduced below for the convenience of the examiner:

More specifically, for current programs, the preview section 92 provides an opportunity for the subscriber to easily identify and evaluate a selected program. For past and future programs, the preview section 92 can display on-demand attract clips, which may be a more effective mechanism for attracting viewers than text-only descriptions of the programming. In addition, still graphic images can be used if an actual broadcast video signal for a current program or an on-demand attract clip is not available. [Rowe, col. 14, lines 46-55]

Rowe's preview section, as described in the above lines, enables a viewer to watch an on-demand attract clip and/or a graphic still image of an unavailable video signal for a current program or an unavailable on-demand attract clip.

Clearly, this is very different from applicant's claimed invention, which includes a database interconnected to an offline archive storing objects associated with past programming events. These objects include both EPG objects and non-EPG objects. Applicant's EPG objects are selected from the group consisting of 3-D images, alphanumeric text and video data. Applicant's non-EPG objects include localized content and electronic commerce (e-commerce) objects. No where in Rowe are these claim feature taught, suggested, or even mentioned.

Accordingly, claims 1, 12 and 23 are not obvious in view of Rowe and Nikolovska.

In the same office action dated April 19, 2006, the examiner used Rowe, Nikolovska and Stautner to reject claims 6, 7, 11, 17, 18, 22, 28, 32 and 34 as having been obvious.

Applicant has canceled claims 6, 7, 11, 17, 18, 22, 28, 32 and 34.

Claim 1 is not obvious in view of Rowe, Nikolovska and Stautner. Claim 11 depends upon, and adds further limitations to, claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 11 is not obvious in view of Rowe, Nikolovska and Stautner.

In the same office action dated April 19, 2006, the examiner used Rowe, Nikolovska, Stautner and Knudson to reject claims 10, 21 and 33 as having been obvious.

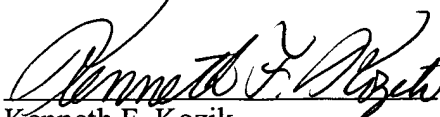
Claims 1, 12 and 23, as amended, are not obvious in view of Rowe, Nikolovska, Stautner and Knudson. Claims 10, 21 and 33 depend upon, and add further limitations to, claims 1, 12 and 23. Accordingly, claims 10, 21 and 33 are not obvious in view of Rowe, Nikolovska, Stautner and Knudson.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any charges, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-2324.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kenneth F. Kozik
Reg. No. 36,572

Holland & Knight LLP
10 St. James Avenue
Boston, MA 02116
Telephone: (617) 573-5879
Facsimile: (617) 523-6850